as under GATS, which is part of globalisation of labour, was raised by the India delegation at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum.

(b) No work permits are given to Indian workers for employment abroad. However, the Indian emigrant worker with the Emigration Check Required (ECR) endorsed passports going for employment in the ECR countries are granted emigration clearance by the offices of the Protector of Emigrants, under the Emigration Act 1983. During 2006, emigration clearance was granted to about 6.77 lakh Indian workers of the above-mentioned category going for employment abroad.

(c) Information on quantity of import made by Government as a result of globalisation is not maintained. However, the value of imports made by India from 1990-91 to 2006-07 (April-October) is Rs. 3900485 crore.

Adverse effect of import of cotton and edible oil

2448. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to curb indiscriminate import of cotton and edible oil, which had led to a crisis in domestic industries of cotton and edible oil;

(b) the modalities and mode of monitoring such curbs, which are being implemented at present and the stringent measures proposed to be introduced;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

(d) whether Government would increase import duty on cotton and edible oil, and impose restrictive import quantitative measures, to encourage domestic sales and domestic industries, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Imports are regulated through adjustments in Customs Tariff within the bound rates. The rates of Customs duty on agricultural produce are generally higher than the peak rate of customs duty. The Central Board

of Excise and Customs also fixes minimum tariff rates for various edible oils such as crude palm oil, RBD palm oil, crude palmolein, crude soyabean oil, etc. In cases of prices falling below the specified levels, the Government undertakes procurement operations, to ensure that farmers interest are protected. Imports are also regulated through the provisions of the Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Meat Food Product Order, Packaging requirements, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures etc. The import of 300 sensitive items including major food items is being monitored on a regular basis by the Government for checking any surge in imports.

Assistance by MPEDA for purchase of fishing vessels

2449. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has decided to provide subsidy scheme of 50 per cent cost of capital cost of modern fishing vessels to their owners, to promote export of high value Sashmi graded chilled tuna fish, which is in heavy demand in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of amount released as subsidy and the number of vessels modernized with subsidy amounts, during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) if not, the reasons for not providing subsidy assistance; and

(d) whether it is a fact that 2.13 lakh tones of oceanic tuna fish exists in the coastal waters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) are implementing a scheme for subsidizing the cost of conversion of existing mechanized/deep sea fishing vessels to monofilament tuna long liners, sanctioned by the Government in February, 2006. Under the scheme, the quantum of assistance is as follows:

(i) Rs. 7.50 lakh or 50% of the cost, whichever is less, for the conversion and acquisition of monofilament long line system in respect of mechanized vessels having an OAL of more than 13 meters and upto 20 meters, and